

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

UNCLAS STATE 213285

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, SHUM, CI, US

SUBJECT: CHILE: FOREIGN AID AND HUMAN RIGHTS

REF: SANTIAGO 5828

1. TEXT OF SEPT 20 LETTER TO SECRETARY FROM CONGRESSMAN FRASER AND 112 OTHER MEMBERS OF HOUSE AND SENATE FOLLOWS:
QUOTE DEAR MR. SECRETARY: THE UNDERSIGNED HAVE SUPPORTED LEGISLATION IN RECENT YEARS PROVIDING ECONOMIC AND MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO OTHER NATIONS. WE ARE TROUBLED, HOWEVER, ABOUT CONTINUED AMERICAN ASSISTANCE TO A NUMBER OF FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS WHICH ARE INCREASINGLY INDIFFERENT TO INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEAL WITH THEIR OWN PEOPLE IN AN INCREASINGLY OPPRESSIVE MANNER.

QUOTE WE RECOGNIZE THAT A LARGE NUMBER OF COUNTRIES ARE RULED BY GOVERNMENTS WHICH RESTRICT THE FULL OBSERVANCE OF POLITICAL RIGHTS AS WE KNOW THEM, INCLUDING ONE-PARTY AND AUTHORITARIAN STATES. IT MAY NOT BE REALISTIC TO EXPECT STRICT OBSERVANCE OF POLITICAL, CIVIL AND OTHER
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HUMAN RIGHTS BY THESE GOVERNMENTS WHILE THEIR POLITICAL

SYSTEMS ARE STILL EVOLVING. NEVERTHELESS, EVEN WITHIN SUCH COUNTRIES, THE OBSERVANCE OF CERTAIN FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS IS PRACTICABLE, INCLUDING FREEDOM FROM TORTURE, ARBITRARY ARREST AND DETENTION, AND ARBITRARY CURTAILMENT OF EXISTING POLITICAL RIGHTS.

QUOTE IN THE ABSENCE OF EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES, WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT LONG-TERM U.S. FOREIGN POLICY INTERESTS ARE SERVED BY MAINTAINING SUPPORTIVE RELATIONSHIPS WITH OPPRESSIVE GOVERNMENTS, ESPECIALLY IN THE MILITARY FIELD, SINCE MILITARY POWER IS DIRECTLY ASSOCIATED WITH THE EXERCISE OF GOVERNMENTAL CONTROL OVER THE CIVILIAN POPULATION.

QUOTE UNLESS U.S. FOREIGN AID POLICIES -- ESPECIALLY MILITARY ASSISTANCE POLICIES -- MORE ACCURATELY REFLECT THE TRADITIONAL COMMITMENT OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE TO PROMOTE HUMAN RIGHTS, WE WILL FIND IT INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT TO JUSTIFY SUPPORT FOR FOREIGN AID LEGISLATION TO OUR CONSTITUENTS. WE CANNOT, IN GOOD CONSCIENCE, ASSOCIATE OURSELVES WITH POLICIES WHICH LACK ACTIVE CONCERN ABOUT THE FATE OF PEOPLE LIVING UNDER OPPRESSIVE GOVERNMENTS. WHILE IT MAY BE BEYOND OUR POWER TO ALLEVIATE THE PLIGHT OF THOSE PEOPLE, WE CAN REFUSE TO BE IDENTIFIED WITH THEIR OPPRESSORS. SINCERELY, DONALD M. FRASER (ET AL) UNQUOTE.

2. CONGRESSMAN FRASER PRESS RELEASE DATED SEPT 22, WHICH ACCOMPANIED DISSEMINATION OF FOREGOING TEXT, SAID IN PORTION RELATIVE TO CHILE: QUOTE SPECIFIC EXAMPLES OF OPPRESSIVE GOVTS WHOSE MILITARY AID HE THOUGHT SHOULD BE CUT BY THE US, FRASER SAID, ARE CHILE UNDER THE MILITARY JUNTA AND SOUTH KOREA UNDER PRESIDENT PARK CHUNG HEE. HE ADDED, 'US FOREIGN POLICY INTERESTS ARE NOT SERVED--AND IN FACT ARE SEVERELY DAMAGED--BY IGNORING THE CRUEL ACTS OF REPRESSION WHICH THESE GOVTS COMMIT AGAINST THEIR OWN PEOPLE. US MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO THESE GOVTS BETRAYS BOTH THE AMERICAN PEOPLE AND THE PEOPLE OF THOSE COUNTRIES.' UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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